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April 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice President Rockefeller

SUBJECT : Security in Ivory Coast and the Seychelles

- l. Ivory Coast has a stable, pro-West government, and anti-US sentiment in the country is almost non-existent. No group in Ivory Coast poses a major security problem for foreign visitors. Demonstrations of any sort are rare, and the government would act quickly to quell any that occurred, particularly if they were directed at the US or US citizens. The security services are fairly competent, and street crime is nowhere near the problem it is in the US.
- 2. Abidjan, the capital, is one of Africa's most cosmopolitan cities. It has a large European population (mostly French) and a wide range of cultural attractions. The capital has two suburbs—Treichville and Adjame—that are the primary Ivorian residential areas; both are safe to visit.
- 3. Security conditions in the Seychelles are generally good. There have not been any significant demonstrations or disruptions of law and order in the last two years. Prior to that, the major opposition party had staged several demonstrations, bombings, and other incidents. The party has since joined Chief Minister Mancham's party in a coalition government, and the coalition should remain intact through independence on June 29, 1976. Despite expected political maneuvering by rival political parties after independence, the situation should remain stable.
- 4. The capabilities of the Seychelles security service are generally satisfactory but are limited by the service's small size. The security service has had considerable experience in dealing with visits of VIPs, including members of the British royal family.
- 5. Independence celebrations, scheduled for June 26 to July 3, will greatly tax existing hotel facilities in the Seychelles.

Chief, White House Support Staff, CIA

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